



20 October 2023

Dear Parents/ Carers

In the last academic year, attendance at Parent Information Evenings averaged 95%, this is an amazing achievement, and we are so grateful for your support. This reflects the importance that we all place on the partnership between the academy, families and students. Parent Information Evenings help us to consider how we can best support each other to learn. "Adult" engagement and support is one of the biggest factors that contribute to the academic success of our young people.

Thank you for the feedback about how we have structured these evenings in the past and we totally agree that the key area for improvement is having a greater number of appointments available with the teaching team. However, this is challenging in our current format.

Therefore, we intend to extend our Parent Information Evenings to run from 3.00pm-7.00pm, giving us an additional hour of appointments. To do this, we will need to make changes to our academy day for these calendared events. As such the academy will close at 1.00pm on these days to facilitate a 3.00pm start for the evening.

On the days of early closure, students will have a slightly shortened tutor time to allow for four full lessons. Students who receive free school meals will be able to pick up lunch at the end of the day.

Why are we making these changes?

- We want to improve our communication with parents around student progress. Parent Information Evenings are integral to this priority.
- Reduce waiting lists - Many teachers teach more than one class in a year group; the original timings did not allow for enough appointment slots.
- Many parents have requested earlier appointment times – a 3.00pm start will facilitate times around the school run.
- Staff directed time considerations – Our staff have contracted hours which need to be considered whenever we make changes to an academy day. When time is added, we need to reduce directed time elsewhere.

We appreciate that any changes may cause initial challenges. However, the amendments to the Parent Information Evening timings have been made with the aim of improving communication and supporting students learning.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to welcoming you to the academy soon.

Yours faithfully

Mrs L Heighton
Vice Principal

Key dates for your diary

Parent Information Evenings:

Post-16	Thursday 9 November (4.30pm-7.00pm) – No change to the academy day
Year 7	Wednesday 22 November – Early closure (1.00pm)
Year 11	Tuesday 5 December (3.00pm – 7.00pm) – Early closure (1.00pm)
Year 10	Thursday 25 January (3.00 – 7.00pm) – Early closure (1.00pm)
Year 9	Options Fair - Wednesday 14 February (4.30pm-7.00pm) – Early closure (1.00pm)
Year 8	Tuesday 19 March (3.00pm – 7.00pm) – Early closure (1.00pm)

End of Term – Academy closure from 1.25pm

End of Term – Thursday 21 December 2023
End of Term – Thursday 28 March 2024
End of Term – Friday 19 July 2024

Other dates:

GAT Training Day – Friday 1 December – Academy Closed



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